

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 remain pending in the application.

**Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 over Brown**

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,655,011 to Brown ("Brown"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 3 recite a ring signal bypass module adapted to detect a presence of an analog non-ring signal. Claims 4-6 and 8-11 recite receiving an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller at an analog telephone line interface indicating a presence of an incoming call to the voice messaging system. Claims 12-15 recite activating an analog ring signal bypass module based on a request from a calling party.

Brown discloses a system and method that allows routing of calls to various telephone devices through use of an identification code that identifies a particular telephone device using individually addressed extensions (see col. 4, lines 17-27). If a calling party simply wishes to leave a voice message for a residence, the calling party sets up the call with an identification code for answering machine 113 (see Brown, col. 4, lines 56-59). Upon receiving the identification code associated with the answering machine, the answering machine 113 immediately goes off-hook and begins its operation without disturbing any individual within a residence (see Brown, col. 4, lines 60-65).

Thus, Brown relies on the fact that the answering machine 113 **LACKS** ring capability. **ALL** calls addressed to Brown's answering machine 113 are automatically answered without ringing because of the **lack** of ring capability. Thus, since **ALL** calls directed to Brown's answering machine are answered without ringing, Brown fails to disclose or suggest any type of ring **BYPASS** module or no-ring signal, i.e., a system and method relying on a ring signal bypass module and an analog non-ring signal initiated by a caller, as recited by claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1, 3-6 and 8-15 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**Claim 2 over Brown in view of Koyama**

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Castro in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,894,505 to Koyama (“Koyama”). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1, and is patentable for all the reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 2 requires a **ring signal bypass module** adapted to detect a presence of an analog non-ring signal.

As explained above, Bar clearly discloses use of an identification code that identifies a particular telephone device that **lacks** ringing capability. However, Koyama fails to cure the SIGNIFICANT and IMPORTANT features of claim 2.

Koyama is relied on to disclose an analog telephone line that is adapted to detect a line reversal at col. 10, lines 16-20 (see Office Action, page 7). However, Koyama relies on a line reversal to indicate that a transmission of calling party information has been started (see col. 10, lines 6-8). Koyama fails to disclose or suggest a line reversal for use with a **ring signal bypass module** adapted to detect a presence of an analog non-ring signal, as recited by claim 2.

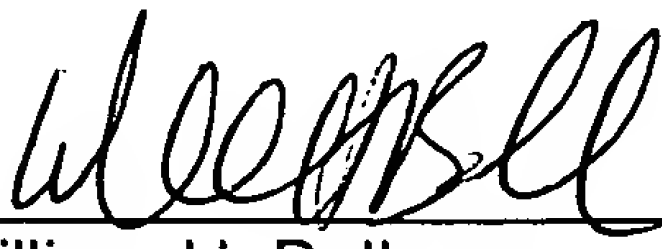
Thus, Brown theoretically modified by Koyama would still fail to disclose or suggest a **ring signal bypass module** adapted to detect a presence of an analog non-ring signal, as recited by claim 2.

For these reasons, claim 2 is patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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